REMARKS

Claims 1-42 stand rejected As a result, claims 1-43 are pending for examination with claim 1, 12, 18, 25, 34 and 39 being independent claims. The amendments made and the new claims added find support in the specification, and do not constitute new matter.

Claims 1, 12, 18, 25, 34, and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over Fairchild et al. (U.S. Patent 6,728,760) ("Fairchild").

Applicants have amended Claim 1 to call for:

> "providing data on a data source and communicating the data from the data source to one or more of a plurality of client computers in response to a request for data by said one or more client computers through a http server;
>
> updating the data on the data source by sending data from one of the plurality of client computers to said data source through the http server; and
>
> communicating a fact that the data available on the data source has been updated by automatically communicating an IRC message from the one client computer that updated the data to other client computers via an IRC server thereby prompting said other client computers to automatically access the updated data from the data source through the http server" (underlining added for emphasis).

Applicants have amended Claim 12 to call for:

"providing data on a data source and communicating the data from the data source to one client computer of a plurality of client computers through a http server in response to an IRC request for data by said one client computer; and

updating the data on the data source and automatically communicating by an IRC message the fact that the data available on the data source has been updated by communicating an update message from said one client computer to said plurality of client computers automatically through an IRC server thereby prompting said plurality of client computers to automatically access the updated data from the data source through the http server" (underlining added for emphasis).

Applicants have amended Claim 18 to call for:

"providing data on a http server computer and communicating the data from the http server computer through the http server computer to a single client computer of a plurality of client computers in response to a request for data by said single client computer; and

automatically updating the data on the http server computer and then automatically communicating a fact that the data available on the http server has been updated by communicating an IRC update message from said single client computer to said plurality of

client computers through an IRC server to thereby prompt said plurality of client computers to automatically access the updated data from the http server computer." (underlining added for emphasis)

Applicants have amended Claim 25 to call for:

"providing new data to a database by one client computer of a plurality of client computers through an http server; .....

communicating by the one client computer of the plurality of client computers to a remaining plurality of client computers by an IRC message that new data to the database has been provided through the http server" (underlining added for emphasis)

Applicants have amended Claim 34 to call for:

"an IRC server; and

a plurality of client computers coupled to the HTTP server, receiving the client to client message from the client computer providing the updated data, and requesting the updated data from the HTTP server in response to the client to client message received from the client computer through the IRC server and providing the updated data to the database server" (underlining added for emphasis)

Applicants have amended Claim 39 to call for:

"communications from a leader utilizing IRC client to client messaging to a plurality of

members to indicate that an update has occurred;

communications from a member of a plurality of members, and to the leader, utilizing IRC client to client messaging to indicate that an update has occurred" (underlining added for emphasis).

As such, Applicants submit that Claims 1, 12, 18, 25, 34, and 39 are not anticipated by Fairchild under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

The present invention provides: "A typical application of the invention is a use wherein the database server 104 of Figure 2 is one or more computers, the server 106 defines a node on the Internet, and the clients 115,116,117,118 are connected to the server 106 by means of the Internet. Such a system employs the HTTP protocol to implement client/server communications. This protocol, in combination with active server page scripts and ODBC technology provides widely distributed clients 115,116,117,118 access to a central scalable database of information. Without more, however, such a system does not provide change notification to the clients 115,116,117,118 concerning changes to the database and therefore prior art client polling of the server is required for the clients to have access to updated data.

Use of a separate, multi-client, real-time update protocol allows the clients 115, 116, 117,118 to notify the other clients when they make a change to the database stored on the database server 104. The IRC protocol (Internet Relay Chat) which was originally designed for text chat, is the preferred means of messaging the other clients 115,116,117,118. When a client makes a change to the database, the client first updates the database. Synchronization facilities in the database management software running on the database server 104 ensure orderly updating of

the information in the database. The client then sends a change notification to a real-time channel that is implemented by means of an IRC server 110. All the other clients that are currently on-line monitor notices from the IRC server 110 and update their local information appropriately by making an update request from the HTTP server 106 for updated data from the database server 104." (page 6, lines 1-21 and FIG. 2) (underlining added for emphasis)

Fairchild, on the other hand provides "FIG. 4 illustrates how a media item is retrieved using a media shortcut. In this case, the original media item is located on the User B's PC. User A who is logged onto his PA 23 on Server A through PA client 24 has acquired a media shortcut 25 pointing to the media item 26, which is located on User B's PC. User B is logged onto his PA 27 on Server B via Client PA 28. When User A activates shortcut 25 to obtain a copy of media item 26, the copy is sent via Server B and then Server A. Both servers make a cached copy 29, 30 of the media item as it passes through, so that the retrieval process is accelerated if another user requests a copy of the same media item. The caching process is optional, and cached copies may be deleted at any appropriate time, such as when space is required or if a predetermined amount of time passes without receiving any further requests for the media item. In the embodiment shown, Server A and Server B both have receiving caches 31 and publishing caches 32. User A and User B both have viewing caches 33. A cached copy 34 of the media item is viewed by User A in viewing cache 33.

FIG. 5 illustrates the steps involved in updating a media item. The original media item 35 resides in media base 36 on User C's PC . User C's PA 37 resides on Server C and a PA client 38 resides on User C's PC. Users A and B who are logged onto their PAs 39, 40 on Server A and Server B respectively through their respective PA clients 41, 42 both have media shortcuts 43, 44 to the media item 35 in their respective media bases 45, 46. User C's PA maintains the annotation record 47 for media item 35, which includes a list of all computer users who have a media shortcut

pointing to the media item. When the original media item 35 is updated, PA client 38 operating on the same PC identifies the change, notifies PA 37 on Server C, and copies the updated media item into a publishing cache 48 on Server C. Notification records are then sent to the PAs 39, 40 associated with all computers which have media shortcuts pointing to the media item, and the users associated with those computers may download the updated media item automatically, at an off-peak time, not at all, or at leisure, depending on preferences which may be predefined and programmed into the appropriate PA." (column 7, line 52 through column 8 line 25) (underlining added for emphasis)

Accordingly, the Applicants submit that Claims 1, 12, 18, 25, 34, and 39 are not unpatentable over Fairchild.

Claims 2-8 are dependent on Claim 1. As such, Claims 2-8 are believed allowable based upon Claim 1.

Claims 13-17 are dependent on Claim12. As such, Claims 13-17 are believed allowable based upon Claim 12.

Claims 19-24 are dependent on Claim18. As such, Claims 19-24 are believed allowable based upon Claim 18.

Claims 26-33 are dependent on Claim 25. As such, Claims 26-33 are believed allowable based upon Claim 25.

Claims 35-38 are dependent on Claim 34. As such, Claims 35-38 are believed allowable based upon Claim 34.

Claims 40-42 are dependent on Claim 39. As such, Claims 40-42 are believed allowable based upon Claim 39.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendment and remarks it is submitted that the claims are patentably distinct over the prior art and that all the rejections to the claims have been overcome. Reconsideration and reexamination of the above Application is requested. Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully requests that pending claims 1-13 be allowed, and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee that is not covered by an enclosed check please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-0463.

Respectfully submitted,
Microsoft Corporation

Date: August 23, 2005

By: _____

Microsoft Corporation
One Microsoft Way
Redmond, WA 98052-6399

Paul B. Heynssens,
Registration Number: 47,648
Attorney for Applicants
Direct telephone (425) 707-3913

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION [37 CFR 1.8(a)]

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being:

☒ deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

August 23, 2005
Date

_____
Signature

Paul Heynssens
Type or Print Name